

Revolutionary War

Thursday, October 8, 1953

DUXBURY CLIPPER



Memories of Yesterday



By GERSHOM BRADFORD

It is interesting to note that the two "Tories" in Duxbury at the outset of the Revolution, Briggs Alden and Gamaliel Bradford (referred to in the October 1st issue of the Clipper) became the town's highest ranking officers in the Continental Army. Furthermore, they each

D U X B U R Y

\$14,500. Gambrel Colonial, with garage. 1/2 acre in a pleasant and convenient location, with shore rights. 27 ft. fire-placed living room, three bedrooms, bath with tub and shower, nicely arranged kitchen. Insulated. Forced hot air heat-oil.

\$13,500. Modern Cape Cod with screened breezeway and garage. A very desirable residential location, 1/2 acre and shore rights. Living room, fireplace, dining room, two bedrooms, bath with tub and shower, cabinet kitchen, expansion attic. Forced hot air heat-oil. Insulated.

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had a son who served and attained the rank of major and lieutenant, respectively.

Gamaliel Bradford's criticized tardiness at the beginning of the war was due, it has been felt, to his connection with the British Colonial Army. My brother and I have his commission as a captain, signed on March 31, 1759, by Thomas Pownall, who carried the impressive title of Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and Vice-Admiral of the same, etc.

Gamaliel Bradford was a major in 1775 and magistrate of the County. It was in the latter capacity that he sent an address to General Gage and for which he afterwards asked forgiveness of the town and signed a recantation of the sentiments it contained. Having taken an oath of allegiance to the King may have raised a matter of conscience, which has harassed many another soldier called upon to fight on the other side. This officer's father, also Gamaliel by name, was a mandamus judge under the British Colonial Government. These connections created a different problem from those patriots unentangled by obligations to the King.

However, he was soon disengaged from the older loyalty and joined the American forces, taking command of the 14th Massachusetts Regiment on January 1, 1777, and served throughout the remainder of the war. He became an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati, in which society I am his representative in this generation. His home was on the site of the present Charles Bitteringer house on Tremont Street.

The regular October meeting of the School Committee will be held tonight, Oct. 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Randall of Autumn Ave., are visiting friends in Tucson, Arizona.